

Message Text

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70

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03

DPW-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OIC-04 MC-02 NEA-14 DRC-01 /187 W

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R 111516Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9284

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USUN NY 400

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARA PFOR ICRC VN VS DA

SUBJ: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: (A) STATE 145886 (B) COPENHAGEN 1610

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL A, EMBOFF FOLLOWED UP EARLIER DEMARCHE (REFTEL B) TO FONOFF LEGAL DIVISION REGARDING DANISH REPLY TO ICRC ENQUIRY ON PRG PARTICIPATION IN WEAPONS CONFERENCE. IN ABSENCE OF PER FERGO, WHO IS PRESENTLY AT LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS, EMBOFF SPOKE WITH TYGE LEHMANN, WORKING LEVEL CONTACT WHO WAS MEMBER OF DANISH DEL TO CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW.

2. LEHMANN SAID DANES HAD NOT YET RESPONDED TO ICRC CIRCULAR ENQUIRY AND FELT THEMSELVES IN A QUANDARY OVER
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PROPER RESPONSE. "HOW DO YOU WRITE A NARRATIVE

EQUIVALENT TO AN ABSTENTION?" HE ASKED. EMBOFF RAN THROUGH US CONCERNS OVER IMPROPRIETY OF ICRC RE-OPENING ISSUE OF PRG PARTICIPATION, AFTER HUMANITARIAN LAW CONFERENCE HAD THOROUGHLY DEBATED AND SET PRECEDENT FOR SUBORDINATE CONFERENCE. LEHMANN SUGGESTED THAT ICRC COULD MAINTAIN THAT IT WAS COMPETENT TO DETERMINE PARTICIPATION, IRRESPECTIVE OF PRECEDING DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT ICRC HAD NOT DONE SO; IT HAD INSTEAD SOUGHT SANCTION FOR AN INVITATION TO PRG THROUGH PROCEDURALLY-IRREGULAR VOTE BY MAIL. HE URGED THAT DANES INFORM ICRC THAT IN THEIR OPINION ISSUE WAS SETTLED AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, PRG PARTICIPATION WAS IMPROPER.

3. LEHMANN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR REVIEW OF US GOVERNMENT VIEWS WHICH HE WOULD CONVEY FURTHER. HE SAID THAT MATTER WAS NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN THE POLITICAL DIVISION AND WOULD PROBABLY BE DECIDED AT VERY HIGH LEVEL TOWARD END OF JULY. ALTHOUGH INDICATING PERSONAL AND LEGAL DIVISION SUPPORT FOR US VIEW, LEHMANN INTIMATED THAT HE FELT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD DETERMINE THE RESULT. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH POLITICAL DIVISION.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH01900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740185-0900
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740657/aaaabwwz.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 145886 (B) COPENHAGEN 1610
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, VS, VN, DA, ICRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005